"amino acid residue 5" and "amino acid residue 1" are unclear as to which amino acid residue is at position 5 or 1.

Applicants have amended claim 20 to clarify the claim languages that the Examiner objected to. The amended claim 20 is directed to an amino acid sequence having a total number between 248 to 322 amino acid residues. A portion of this amino acid sequence from residue number 5th to 248th (244 amino acid residues in total) is substantially identical to a portion of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 3 (starting from residue number 28th), which is a sequence of the wild-type glucanase from *Fibrobacter succinogenes*. Since all amino acid sequences are sequentially numbered from their N-terminals, the language "said amino acid sequence starting at the amino acid residue 5th" clearly means the number 5th amino acid residue from the N-terminal of the claimed sequence, whether the claimed sequence has 248 amino acid residues or 322 amino acid residue. The portion that substantially identical to the portion of SEQ ID No. 3 all starts at number 5th amino acid from the N-terminal.

The previous claim language reciting the amino acid sequence of the wild-type glucanase that is substantially identical to the above described portion of the claimed amino acid sequence has also been amended to recite SEQ ID No. 3, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, claim 20 is now clear and definite.

The amino acid number changes from "246" to "248", from "321" to "322" and from the second "246" to "243" in claim 20, line 4, are not new matter. Those original numbers are in error. The revised amino acid numbers are accurate numbers supported by SEQ. ID. Nos. 1, 2, and 3 and the specification.

Applicants believe that the rejection to claims 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and objection to claim 21-24 have been overcome and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, allowance of amended claims 20-24 is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

20. (Amended) An isolated truncated glucanase having enhanced glucanase activity and an amino acid sequence of a total number of amino acid residues between [246] 248 to [321] 322, wherein a portion of said amino acid sequence [containing at least 246 amino acid residues] starting at amino acid residue [5] 5th and extending [therefrom] at least 243 amino acid residue is substantially identical to a corresponding portion of SEQ ID No. 3, [the amino acid sequence of a wild-type glucanase from *Fibrobacter succinogene,* said corresponding portion of the amino acid sequence of said wild-type glucanase starting at amino acid residue 1 of said amino acid sequence of said wild-type glucanase] starting at amino acid residue 28th of SEQ ID No. 3 and extending therefrom.

22. (Amended) [The isolated truncated glucanase of claim 20, wherein said amino acid sequence of said wild-type glucanase is identical to SEQ ID No: 3.] The SEQ ID No. 3 of claim 20 is identical to a wild-type glucanase from *Fibrobactor succinogenes.*